

Pacific Pride

For the Families of Marines and Sailors of the Command Element



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Fighting an enemy invisible to the naked eye

By Sgt. Brian J. Griffin

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – More than 35 Marines and Sailors assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Enhanced Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (E-NBC) team recently showed off new gear and skills during an exercise held here Feb. 15 that culminated a month of initial training.

The 11th MEU is the second West Coast MEU to receive more than \$3 million worth of equipment, along with specialized

training, which provide a force protection capability the MEU never had in the past.

During the month-long training, Marines and Sailors worked with the new equipment that is used to detect and identify more than 80,000 chemical agents that could cause serious safety and health problems for Marines. In addition, the new capability includes a decontamination suite that can accommodate ambulatory and non-ambulatory victims.

"Before this equipment arrived, we had no way or method of protecting deployed Marines against toxic industrial chemicals and materials," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Albert Dailey, NBC defense officer, 11th MEU.

The detection equipment, along with protective encapsulating suits with self-contained breathing apparatuses, is being implemented by the Marine Corps Systems Command based in Quantico, Va.

The E-NBC program has been in development for about five years, and is now ready for employment by the 11th MEU. Eventually all seven MEU's will have this capability.

"It is an incredibly robust tool kit for the MEU commander," Dailey said. "Our bread and butter is identification. We can go down range and identify exactly what threats we could be dealing with."

The new tools are based on research conducted by companies such as Battelle Memorial Institute. These tools allow for the positive identification of substances that could be harmful to Marines.

"These Marines now have the enhanced capability for identification, detection and decontamination. In today's battlefield, it's not just your traditional chemical warfare and biological agents. It's those agents, plus toxic industrial chemicals and materials that pose a danger," Rob Markiewicz, E-NBC Project Officer, Battelle Memorial Institute said.

As with any new equipment comes training and preparation for the real thing. The training, although intense, is good for Marines and Sailors to go through it and will provide a capability to prevent serious health



From the Commanding Officer



Greetings! I'd like to take this time to introduce myself to the extended 11th MEU family- the spouses, parents, significant others and friends who tirelessly support our MEU Marines and Sailors. As you might already know, on March 6, I

assumed command of the 11th MEU from Col. Charles S. Patton in a ceremony held on base. I am extremely excited and proud to be part of the MEU team and am very impressed with the quality of unit that Col. Patton has passed on to me.

I come to the MEU from a one-year unaccompanied tour in Okinawa. My wife, Lynn, who was teaching 5th grade in Florida while I was gone, will stay there during the deployment to finish the school year with her students. Though she will still serve as the Key Volunteer Network Advisor, Lynn and I want to give our personal thanks to Mrs. Judy Matkin and Mrs. Carolyn Mellon, our KVN coordinators, who work extremely hard to make the KVN program the success that it is.

To give you a little background about me, I am a native of Brooklyn, New York and am a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter pilot. I have made several deployments while in the Marine Corps, my last being with the 15th MEU as the commanding officer of the Aviation Combat Element.

Since taking command, I have had the opportunity to observe and begin to know the Marines and Sailors of the MEU. I am impressed with the quality of personnel that we have and I hope to meet each and every family member before the deployment. I consider you, the families, a significant and crucial part of our team and believe that we all must be prepared to

See **FIGHT**, page 2

See **COMMAND**, page 3

Pacific Pride



The Four Horsemen of our Personal Apocalypse

Chaplain Bruce Mentzer

"Life's *hard*."

Heard that phrase before? I hear it lots—and I've noticed some common reasons that we stress the last word. I call those common reasons, "The Four Horsemen." They are fear, anger, disappointment, and guilt. They ride through our lives. And if they lack purpose; if they loose direction; if they become powers without check, they can have a personality of their own.

Fear can freeze the well-trained warrior or kindest parent. It can fill one with an unrealistic horror when caring directed action is needed. It can make you blurt out or keep you in a prison of silence. Fear is the first horseman that most of us encounter in life. Many of us can look back to a movie, a person, a story, or a place where we experienced powerful fear.

Many see anger as a secondary emotion. They explain that something else triggers our emotions and anger is the second emotion that hits us. For instance, we may feel threatened (like on I-5) and we react with.....ANGER!! And many people that are just plain angry people use that anger to keep others away, to cover up emotional pain, or cope with the extreme stress that they live through each day. Anger, horseman number two.

Horseman number three rides in gently. We face disappointments every day. Schedules change, pay doesn't come through, and relationships let us down. Some folks don't see disappointment right in front of them. And if we roll lots of disappointments in front of us, we develop a tail of bitterness that can soon grow into a root. (I apologize for the mixed metaphors here, but I hope you get my point.) Eventually we feed off disappointment and lower our own standards, our expectations of others, and we kill off our dreams before we get a chance to work on them. Horseman number three: disappointment.

Horseman four is guilt. You can see folks carry it. "I'm sorry" is a phrase that parents wish their children would say, but when it's experienced without

growth (forgiveness and teaching...two key ingredients of discipline), the sorrow over our mistakes and missed opportunities sinks in and weighs us down.

An apocalypse is a time when things are shown. It is a time when the lights come on. The ancient word meant a time when you lifted the lid on the kettle and took a look at supper. With these four horsemen staring you in the face as your evening meal, what do you do?

First, know that all four are needed. Second, know that having tools to restore the "life" part of the "hard life" must be learned. The best tool is love—simple care and devotion for yourself and others. I've already pointed to some other tools that help you tame the horsemen: forgiveness, examining your anger, staying focused on your purpose, and facing disappointments honestly. A context of faith provides you with the vision to embrace, reinforce, and train yourself in each of these. And, as always, seek out a safe community to coach you. *Life*-skills are best learned with those full of *life*.

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FIGHT, from page one

risks.

"It has been some intense training with a lot of knowledge, but it's definitely good for the Marines and Sailors. It gives them a good idea of what's going on, because this is made for a real world situation," said Cpl. Dana Debiaw, E-NBC decontamination team leader.

Training for the E-NBC team paid off during the final exercise. Upon its completion, CWO-3 Dailey was given the thumbs up. His E-NBC team was now ready to handle a non-conventional NBC threat.

"From here it's just a matter of conducting sustainment training. The more practice the smoother and better we'll get," Dailey said. "I have all the confidence in the world with these Marines and Sailors. I'd send them out on an actual mission in a heartbeat, knowing that I'm going to accomplish the mission and bring them all back."

Pacific Pride



Key Volunteer Network Information

Pre-Deployment Brief

March 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Club. Baby-sitting will be provided.

KVN Meeting

The next KV meeting will be April 6th at 9 am at the KV center. Any one is welcome to come and join.

KVNs will be calling

Spouses should be receiving calls from their KV within the next 2 weeks just to touch base and explain things like the phone tree, which will be used to keep everyone informed during the deployment.

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COMMAND, from page 1

meet the challenges ahead.

One of the key ways to prepare all of us for the deployment will be the pre-deployment brief on the evening of March 26 at the South Mesa SNCO club. This will be a great opportunity for spouses and family members to learn about the assets, organizations and support that are here for you while we are deployed. Additionally, we will address pay, legal and administrative issues and introduce the Key Volunteer Network.

I strongly feel that families play a key role in our unit's success. If there are questions or concerns about anything, even before we deploy, I urge you to contact the Key Volunteers or 1stLt Carrie Batson, our Family Readiness Officer, at (760) 763-3512. These folks are committed to providing you 100% support now and through the deployment.

Your Marines and Sailors have also been going through a series of training evolutions for our deployment, which are invaluable and essential to our success. The nature of what we do as Marines and Sailors is dangerous. In order to be prepared to meet any contingency during deployment, it is imperative that we conduct this training. Again, I thank you, the spouses, families and friends of 11th Marines and Sailors for your support during this busy time.

While we will train hard, I can also ensure you that safety is extremely important to me. I will not allow anyone to take unnecessary risks during workups; it's just not worth it. I can promise you that before every training evolution, safety issues are addressed. Also, all command element Marines and Sailors conducted a safety stand-down on March 8 to discuss safety and operational risk management issues.

It is an honor for me to be the commanding officer of the MEU. I look forward to working with your Marines and Sailors and I cannot express enough how great it is to join the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit team and family. I look forward to meeting you and your spouse at the pre-deployment brief.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Haslam
Colonel, USMC

PACIFIC PRIDE

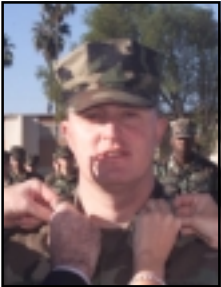
The Pacific Pride is produced monthly for the families of Marines and Sailors serving with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Commanding Officer
Public Affairs Officer
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Combat Correspondent
KVN Advisor
KVN Coordinator
KVN Coordinator

Col A.M. Haslam
1stLt C.C. Batson
GySgt D.E. Preston
Sgt B.J. Griffin
Lynn Haslam
Judy Matkin
Carolyn Mellon



Promotions and Awards



Lieutenant Colonel Andrew R. Mellon was promoted to his present rank.



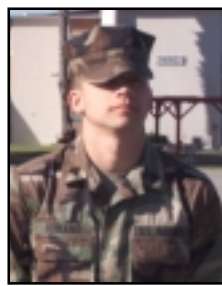
Staff Sergeant Brian A. Nelson was promoted to his present rank.



Sergeant Nicholas P. Boccio was promoted to his present rank.



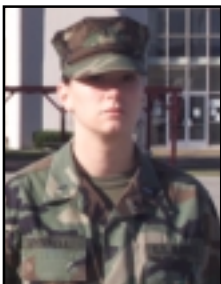
Corporal Brian A. Price was promoted to his present rank.



Sergeant Paul Romano was promoted to his present rank.



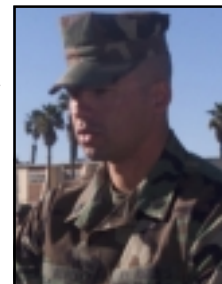
Corporal Bradley C. Schmidt was promoted to his present rank.



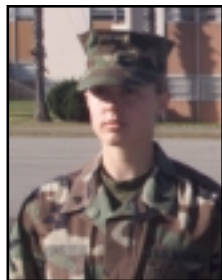
First Lieutenant Julie A. Grinnell was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



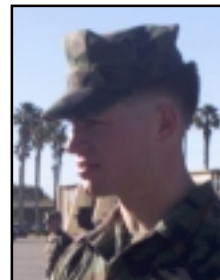
Hospital Corpsman First Class Edgardo C. Ferrer was certified as an Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist.



Staff Sergeant Samuel J. Tauriac was presented the Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award).



Corporal Rachel A. Sims was presented the Good Conduct Medal.



Sergeant Samuel C. Shaw was presented the Good Conduct Medal.